

The truth of the molt wicked and secret
murthring of Iohn Brewen, Goldsmith of
London, committed by his owne wife,
through the prouocation of one Iohn Parker
whom she loved: for which fact she was burned,
and he hanged in Smithfield, on wednes-
day, the 28 of Iune, 1592. two yeares af-
ter the murther was committed.



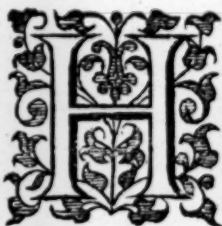
Imprinted at London for Iohn Kid, and are to be sold
by Edward White, dwelling at the little North doore
of Paules, at the signe of the Gun. 1592.

Ihō Kid



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¶ The murder of Iohn Brewen Goldsmith of London, who through the entisment of Iohn Parker, was poysoned of his owne wife in eating a measse of Sugarlops.



How hatefull a thing the sinne of murder hath borne before the sight of the eternall God, the holy Scriptures doe manifest, yet from the beginning we may evidently see how busie the diuell hath bene to prouoke men thereunto, in so much that when there was but two brethren liuing in the world, the onely sonnes of the first man Adam; hee prouoked the one most vnnaturally to murder the other. And albeit there was none in the world to accuse Caine for so foule a fact, so that in his owne conceit hee might haue walked securely and without blame, yet the blood of the iust Abel cried most shrill in the eares of the righteous God for vengeance & reuenge on the murderer. The Lord therefore ordayned a Lawe that the cruel & vniust blood-sheader should haue his blood iustly shed again: of which law, although no man is ignorant, and that we see it put in execution daylie before our eyes, yet both the Diuell so worke in the hearts of a number, that without respect either of the feare of God, or extreame punishment in this world they doe notwithstanding committe most haynous and grieuous offences to the great hazard of their soules, and the destructions of their bodies on earth, onely through Satrans suggestions, as by this example following may evidently be proued.

There was of late dwelling in London a proper yong woman named Anne Welles, which for her fauour and comely personage, as also in regard of her good behauiour and other commendable qualities, was beloued of diuers young men, especially of two Goldsmithes, which were Batchelers, of good friends, and well esteemed for fine workmanship in their trade: The one of them was called Iohn Brewen, and the other Iohn Parker, who although hee was better beloued, yet least deserued it (as the sequell hereafter will shewe) But as the truest louers are commonly least regarded, and the plaine meaning man most scorned of vn-

discreete maidens, so came it to passe by Brewen, who notwithstanding his long and earnest suite, the gifts and fauours which she received was still disdained and cast off, albeit he had the good will & fauour of al her friends & kinsfolk: but no man was so high in her books as Parker: he had her fauours whosoener had her frowns: he sate and smiled, when others sobbed, and triumphant in the teares of the dispossessed. It came to passe that this nice maiden had vpon a promise betwene them, receaued of Brewen both golde and iewels, which he willingly bestowed vpon her, esteeming her the mistress and commandres of his life, but when he saw his suite despised, and his goodwill nothing regarded, and seeing no hope of her goodwill and fauour, he determined, that seeing his suite toke no effect; to demaund his golde and iewels againe. And vpon a time coming vnto her, requested that he might haue his gifts againe, to whom disdainfully she made answer that he should stay for it: and the young man hauing been thus driuen off longer than hee thought good of, made no more adoe but arrested her for the iewels.

The stout damsel that had neuer before been in the like danger, was so astonished & dismayed, that she concluded on condition he would let his Action fall, & not to think euer the worse of her afterward, to marrie him by a certain day, & to make him her husband: And this before god witnes she vowed to performe. Brewen was hereof very ioyfull and released his prisoner on his owne perill being not a little glad of his good success. And thereupon so soone as might be, made preparation for their marriage, albeit it proued the worst bargain that euer he made in his life. Now when Parker understood of this thing, he was most grievously vexed, and as one hauing deepe intrest to the possession of her person, stoyped most outragiously, and with bitter speeches so taunted and checked her, that she repented the promise she made to Brewen, although she could not any way amend it, neuertheless it kindled such a hatred in her heart against her new made choyce, that at length it turned to Brewens death & destruction. And this accursed Parker although he was not as then in estate to marrie (notwithstanding he ere then had lien with her and gotten her with child) & would neuer let her rest, but continually urged her to make him away by one meanes or other. Diuers and sundry times had they talke together of that matter, and although she often refused to work his death, yet at length

length the grace of GOD being taken from her, she consented by his direction to poyson Brewen : after which deede done Parker, promised to marrie her so soone as possibly he could.

Now she had not been married to Brewen aboue three dayes whē she put in practise to poyson him. And although the honest young man loued hir tenderly, yet had she conceiued such deadly hatred against him, that she lay not with him after the first night of her marriage, neither could she abide to be called after his name but still to be termed Anne Welles as she was before : And to excuse her from his bed, she sayd she had vowed neuer to lie by him more till he had gotten her a better house. And the more to shadow her trecherie & to shew the discontent she had of his dwelling she lodged neuer a night but the first in his house, but provided her a lodging neere to the place where this graceles Parker dwelt. By this meanes the villaine had free access to practise with her about the murder, who was so importunate and hastie to haue it done that the wednesday after she was married she wickedly went to effect it, euen according as Parker had before giuen direction : which was in this sort. The barlet had bought a strong deadly poyson, whose working was to make speedy haste to the heart without any swelling of the body or other signe of outward confection. This poyson the wicked woman secretly caried with her to her husbands house, with a mery pleasant countenance, and very kindly shee asked her husband how he did, giuing him the good morrow in most courteous manner, and asked if he would haue that colde morning, a measure of sugar soppes, (for it was the wake before shrouetide) I marry with a good will wife (quoth he) and I take it verie kindly that you will doe so much for me, alas husband (quoth she) if I could not find in my heart to doe so small a matter for you (especially being so lately married) you might iustly iudge me unkinde, And therewithall went to make ready his last meat, the thing being done, shee powred out a measure for him, and strewed secretly therein part of the poyson, and hauing set the porringer downe beside her while she put the posnet on the fire againe, with her rising vp from the fire, her coat cast downe that measure which for her husband she had prepared, out alas quoth she, I haue spilt a measure of as good sugar sops as euer I made in my life. Why, quoth her husband, is there no more? Yes, quoth she, that there is, two, as good as they

or I will make them as good, but it grieues me that any good thing should so unluckily be cast away. What woman quoth he: ver not at the matter, your ill lucke goe with them: mary Amen, quoth she, speaking God knowes with a wicked thought, though the well meaning man thought on no euill.

But I pray you Iohn (said she) shall I intreate you to fetch mee a penny worth of red herrings, for I haue an earnest desire to eate some, that I will quoth he with a good will. This sly shift she deuised to haue his absence, that she might the better perforce his wicked intent, and by the time he came againe she had made ready a messe of suger sops for him, one for her selfe, and another for a little boye which she brought with her, but her husbands she had poisoned as before: when he was come, she gaue her husband his messe, and she and the childe fell also to eating of theirs. Within a pretty while after hee had eaten his, hee began to waire very ill about the stomack, feeling also a grieuous griping of his inward partes, wherupon he tould his wife he felt himselfe not well, how so quoth she you were well before you went forth, were you not: yes indeed was I said he, then he demaunded if she were well, she answered I: so likewise said the childe. Ah quoth her husband, now I feelee my selfe sicke at the very heart: and immediatlie after he began to vomit exceedingly, with such straines as if his lungs would burst in peeces, then he requested her to haue him to bed, neuer mistrusting the trecherie wrought against him. Now when it was somewhat late, she tould her husband she must needs goe home to her lodging, and when he requested her to stay with him, she said she could not no: would not: And so vnmaturally left the poisoned man all alone that whole night longe, without either comfort or companie. All that night was he extreame sicke, worse and worse, neuer ceasing vomiting til his intrailles were all shrunke and broken within him (as is since supposed.) The next morning she came to him againe, hauing been once or twice sent for, but made little semblance of sorrow, and when he quibd her with unkindnes, for not staying with him one night, she asked him if he would haue her forsworne, did I not quoth she swear I would not stay in the house one night, till you had gotten another: well Anne quoth hee, stay with mee now, for I am not long to continue in this world, now God forbid quoth she) and with that she made a shewe of great beauinties and sorrow, and

and then made him a caudle with sugar and other spices, and so on the thursday, immediatly after he had eaten it he dyed, on the friday he was buried. No person as then suspecting any manner of euill done to him by his wife, but esteemed her a very honest woman, although through her youth, she knew not as then how to behaue her selfe to her husband so kindly as she ought, which they imputed to her ignorance, rather then to any mallice conceaued against her husband. Now you shall vnderstand that within a small space after her husband was dead, she was knowne with child, and safely deliuered: euery neighbour thinking it had bene her husbands, although she since confessed it was not, but that child liued not long but dyed.

The murder lying thus vnspied, who was so lusty as Parker with the Widow, being a continuall resorter to her house, whose welcome was answerable to his desire. And so bould in the end he grew with her, that she durst not denie him any thing he requested, and became so iclious, that had shee loekt but merely vpon a man, she should haue knowne the price thereof, and haue bought her meement dearly. And yet was he not married vnto her, yea to such slauey and subiection did he bring her, that she must runne or goe wheresoeuer he pleased to appoint her, held her by but his finger at any time, if she denied him either money or whatsoeuer else he listd to request, he would so haule and pull her, as was pittie to behold, yea and threaten to stabbe and thrust her through with his dagger, did she not as he would haue her in all things, so that he had her at comandement whensoever hee would, and yet could shee scant please him with her diligence. In this miserable case hee kept her vnmarried for the space of two yeares after her husband was dead, at length he got her with child againe, which when the woman knew, she was carefull for the sauing of her credit to keepe it vnspied so long as she could, in so much that she would not goe forth of her doores for feare her neighbours should perceane her great bellie. In the meane space Parker coming vnto her, she was vpon one day aboue the rest most earnest with him to marrie her. Prouise (quoth shee) in what case I am, and if you wil not for your owne credit, yet for my credits sake marrie me, and suffer me not to be a poynting marke for others, and a shame among my neighbours. The varlet hearing the great mone shee made vnto him was

was nothing moved therewith, but charlishly answered, shee should not appoint him when to marrie, but if I were so minded (quoth he) I would be twice advised how I did wed with such a strumpet as thy selfe, and then censured her most shamefully: whereunto shee answered shee had neuer been strumpet but for him, and too woorth thee (quoth she) that ever I knewe thee, it is thou and no man else that can triumph in my spoyle, and yet now thou refusest to make amends for thy fault: my loue to thee thou hast sufficiently tried, although I neuer found any by thee. Out arrant queane (quoth he) thou wouldst marry me to the end thou mightest poison me as thou didst thy husband, but for that cause I meane to keepe me as long out of thy fingers as I can, and accurst be I if I trust thee or hazard my life in thy hands: why thou arrant beast (quoth shee) what did I then, which thou didst not prouoke me to do, if my husband were poisoned, thou knowest (shameles as thou art) it had neuer been done but for thee, thou gauest me the poison, and after thy direction I did minister it vnto him, and woe is me, it was for thy sake I did so cursed a dede. These speeches thus spoken betwene them in vehemencie of spirite, was ouer heard of some that reuealed it to the maiestrates, whereupon the woman was carried befoze Alderman Haward to be examined, & the man befoze Iustice Younge, who stode in the denial therof very stoutly, neither would the woman confesse any thing, till in the ende shee was made to beleue that Parker had betrayed the matter, whereupon she confessed the fact in order, as I haue declared. When was she carried into the countrey to be deliuered of her childe, and after brought back to prison. And then shee and Parker were both arraigned and condemned for the murder at the sessions hall nere newgate, and the woman had iudgement to be burned in Smithfield, and the man to bee hanged in the same place befoze her eyes. This was accordingly performed, and they were executed on Wednesday last, being the 28. of June 1592. two yeares and a halfe after the murder was committed. The Lord giue all men grace by their example to shunne the hateful sinne of murder, for he it kept neuer so close and done neuer so secret, yet at length the Lord will bring it out, for bloud is an vnceassant crier in the eares of the Lord and he will not leaue so vilde a thing unpunished.

FINIS.